

Message Text

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ORIGIN SCS-01

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TO AMCONSUL BELIZE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 176651

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PINS, CASC, BH, GT

SUBJECT:U.S. MILITARY ABSENTEES

REF: A) BELIZE 672, B) BELIZE 678

1. DEPT HAS DISCUSSED RETURN OF UNAUTHORIZED MILITARY
ABSENTEES (MAS) WITH OFFICE OF JUDGE ADVOCAT GENERAL FOR AIR
FORCE. THERE IS NO CURRENT AMNESTY PROGRAM FOR MAS. THE
USUAL PROCEDURE FOR A RETURNING AF OFFICER PARA 7 OF REF B
INDICATES MA WAS PILOT) IS FOR THE ABSENTEE TO TURN HIMSELF
OVER TO MILITARY AUTHORITY IMMEDIATELY AFTER RETURNING
TO THE UNITED STATES. THE MA WOULD BE HELD FOR A COURT'S
MARTIAL OR ALTERNATIVELY THE INDIVIDUAL COULD SUBMIT HIS
RESIGNATION FROM THE SERVICE. THE DECISION TO ACCEPT A
RESIGNATION IS MADE AT AIR FORCE SECRETARY LEVEL.

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MITIGATING FACTORS COULD BE INTRODUCED BEFORE DECIDING
CHARACTER OF DISCHARGE. LESS THAN HONORABLE DISCHARGE IS
USUAL RESULT IF NO OTHER POSSIBLE CRIMINAL ACT INVOLVED.
FYI - AF RECORDS INDICATE THERE ARE ONLY TWO REMAINING
OFFICER MA-. END FYI

2. IF MA IS ENLISTED MAN PROCESS IS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT.

AFTER RETURN TO U.S. AND SURRENDER TO U.S. MILITARY JURISDICTION MA IS RETURNED TO UNIT FROM WHICH ORIGINAL ABSENT. INDIVIDUAL'S CASE LIKELY TO BE CONSIDERED BY ADMINISTRATION DISCHARGE BOARD WHERE MA WOULD HAVE LEGAL COUNSEL, OTHER LEGAL PROCEDURES AND SAFEGUARDS WOULD BE SIMILAR TO THOSE OF A COURT. THE FINAL DECISION IS MADE BY A MAJOR COMMANDER, NORMALLY AT 3 OR 4 STAR LEVEL. THE USUALL RESULT IS A LESS-THAN-HONORABLE DISCHARGE.

3. POSTUNDERSTANDS THE ABOVE SUGGESTED RESULTS ARE NOT GUARANTEED, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW PAUCITY OF INFORMATION.

4. IF MA DECIDES RETURN TO U.S. TO NORMALIZE SITUATION, DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE INFORMED ASAP AND WILL COOPERATE WITH POST IN MAKING APPROPRIATE RETURN ARRANGEMENTS. CHRISTOPHER

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